

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 335

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP (for herself and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and for other purposes.

Whereas November 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Microbiological Institute, predecessor of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, under authority of section 202 of the Public Health Service Act;

Whereas the Institute was formed through the combination of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, the Biologics Control Laboratory, and the Divisions of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Diseases of the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas in 1955 Congress renamed the National Microbiological Institute as the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in recognition of the

need for a coordinated scientific research program on infectious, allergic, and immunologic diseases;

Whereas the research conducted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases encompasses infectious diseases such as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, malaria, and influenza, immunologic diseases (including asthma, allergies, and primary immune deficiency diseases), transplantation immunology, and the development of new diagnostic therapies and vaccines for infectious diseases;

Whereas research supported by the NIAID continues to yield promising advances, including the development of vaccines against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the identification of effective treatment regimens for childhood asthma;

Whereas the continued threat of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, poses a risk to health worldwide;

Whereas research supported by the NIAID provides the necessary tools to develop diagnostic tests, new and improved treatments, vaccines, and other means to combat microbial threats of today and those of the future;

Whereas research supported by the NIAID is making significant progress in understanding the immune system and its disorders, including the mechanisms of immune tolerance, which refers to the ability of the immune system to distinguish between cells and tissues that are “self” and those that are foreign or “non-self”, such as a pathogen, tumor, or transplanted organ;

Whereas this progress is vital to the field of organ transplantation and may prove useful in treating autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis; and

Whereas the Congress intends that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases continue its innovative leadership in delineating pathogenesis, improving diagnosis and treatment, and developing vaccines to prevent infectious and immunologic diseases, thereby contributing to the overall health of the American public and the people of the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
4 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Na-
5 tional Microbiological Institute, now known as the
6 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Dis-
7 eases;

8 (2) recognizes the research scientists, adminis-
9 trative staff, professional societies, and patient
10 groups of the NIAID for their active participation in
11 support of the research programs and goals of the
12 NIAID; and

13 (3) reaffirms its support of the National Insti-
14 tute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and of the
15 commitment of the NIAID to advance knowledge
16 and improve health.

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